

Fast Facts

1900 – Miles of Montana rivers deemed “navigable” by the Corp of Engineers prior to 1985

23,000 – Miles of Montana streams opened by Supreme Court ruling and subsequent 1985 Stream Access Law

341 – Irrigation Ditch Companies in Montana (2006 records)

10,457 – Montana farmers and ranchers relying on irrigation for some or all of their farming and ranching operation

2,013,167 – Irrigated acres in Montana

6,064 – Farmers and ranchers using gravity irrigation systems in Montana

1,102,878 – Acres irrigated in Montana with a gravity irrigation system

\$10,876,000 – Spent by Montana farmers and ranchers to maintain and repair their irrigation equipment and facilities in 2008

(USDA ag statistics for 2008; 1985 Senate Hearings on SAL)